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Mick Hans/R5/USEPA/US

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To

Subject Fw: DG article

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03/23/2005 12:45 PM

To

Subject DG article

Naperville Sun 032305

**Residents say water connections dangerous**By Katie Foutz  
staff writer

WHEATON — Downers Grove-area residents whose private wells were contaminated now say their public water connections create risks of pipe breaks and electrical shock.

Seven residents asked the DuPage County Board on Tuesday to fix the problems.

Earlier this month, the county released more federal grant money to help cover the \$2,000-per-home water-connection fee for 750 homes whose wells were contaminated with trichloroethylene, or TCE, a degreaser and carcinogen spilled at Ellsworth Industrial Park in Downers Grove.

Geoffrey Wood, a resident of an unincorporated area near Downers Grove, said some of the water system's old electrical lines were simply turned off rather than removed.

"If someone were to flip the breaker back on, we've got a live line that goes into an area where there are water pipes," he told the County Board. "This is a danger of electrocution."

He also said the county's contractors connected his and his neighbors' homes to Lake Michigan water using existing plastic pipes instead of copper pipes.

"The people whose connections are not up to code deserve to have their connections corrected," Wood said. "Something needs to be done to address the potential electrical hazard."

DuPage County Chief Operations Officer Greg Wilcox said the county Health Department and the village of Downers Grove inspected all of the new water connections. He added that the county's work is guaranteed by contract.

"We have 750 of these, so we're bound to have a few problems," he said.

DuPage County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom, R-Naperville, said Tuesday was the first time he had heard the residents' concerns. He said he was not sure whether the grant funds would cover the repairs.

"I don't know how much money is left, but it is something to look at and look into," he said.

The residents scheduled a meeting with Wilcox for next week.

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